

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



PATRICIA McMANAMAN
DIRECTOR

BARBARA A. YAMASHITA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 3, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
House Committee on Housing

The Honorable Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Patricia McManaman, Director

SUBJECT: **H.B. 1841 – RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Hearing: Monday, February 3, 2014; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329; State Capitol

PURPOSE: H.B. 1841 proposes to establish a Hale Kokua program within the Department of Human Services. The proposed service would provide incentives and assistance to homeowners throughout the State who set aside existing dwelling units for rental for a period of five years by families or individuals classified as employed but homeless.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services appreciates the intent of this bill to provide affordable housing for homeless individuals and families. However, we ~~do not support~~ the Hale Kokua program as a means to achieve this goal.

The scope and requirements of this program to be implemented statewide would make oversight of this program onerous even if it were contracted to a vendor. The oversight required includes background checks, eligibility, screening and monitoring of work status, payment status, housing placement (and related liability to the State), disbursement of rental subsidies, working with the counties to develop and propose uniform incentives for property owners, and working with counties to enact real property tax rate waivers or reductions as incentives to property owners.

Even if the program were implemented by a vendor, the Homeless Programs Office would be responsible for procurement, contracting, and monitoring. To be able to do all of this additional work, including the financial monitoring of the various transactions, the projected staffing resources needed would be:

- 1) a program administrator
- 2) six program specialists
- 3) an attorney or advocate to work with the counties on zoning and real property exemption issues;
- 4) two forensic accountants to monitor spending on the individual and aggregate basis

The current requirements of the program are beyond the Homeless Programs Office's ability to administer program without adequate staffing, funding, and administrative and program supports.

Homeless service agencies are already working with private landlords and property management companies to establish relationships that encourage and promote housing opportunities for the homeless (and formerly homeless). Statewide efforts to address homelessness have become more focused on housing individuals and families. Agencies are educating landlords about the client base. Agency staff are in essence housing liaisons that help landlords be assured that the tenant remains stable and upholds terms of the rental agreements. These supports, which may come in a continuum of intensity, are necessary to get landlords to be open to renting to our homeless clients. When positive relationships between landlords and agencies are established and nurtured through consistent follow up, tenants are more stable and landlords grow more willing to rent their units to our client base.

The system would certainly benefit from greater participation by more landlords and more property management firms, but establishment of a new program with additional burdens for eligibility, five year commitments, and monitoring of additional incentives does not appear feasible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

woodson1-Brina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 9:45 AM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM*

HB1841

Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HSG/HUS on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



Community Alliance for Mental Health

February, 3, 2014

Board of Directors

Anne Chipchase
President

Robert Scott Wall
Vice President

Brenda Kosky
Secretary

William Lennox
Treasurer

Susan King

Linda Takai

Randolph Hack

Gina Hungerford

To: House Housing and Human Services Committees
Re: HB1841

Aloha Chairs Carroll, Hashem, and the members of their committees,

On behalf of the Community Alliance for Mental Health along with United Self Help **strongly support** HB 1841.

We believe that there is no way that the fifty thousand housing units Hawai'i needs can be constructed in the next ten years. Given that options must be found. We also believe that the Hale Kokua Program to seek out potential available rental units amongst private home owners has viable potential to help alleviate the problem.

Scott Wall
VP/Legislative Advocate
Community Alliance for Mental Health

[
]

woodson1-Brina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 1:30 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: robertscottwall@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM*

HB1841

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HSG/HUS on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wall	Community Alliance for Mental Health	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

woodson1-Brina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 7:08 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: sherrianwitt@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM

HB1841



Submitted on: 1/31/2014

Testimony for HSG/HUS on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Witt Counseling Service	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support these additional options for homeless families.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

woodson1-Brina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 1:45 PM
To: HSGtestimony
Cc: Awai76@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1841 on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM

HB1841

Submitted on: 2/1/2014

Testimony for HSG/HUS on Feb 3, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Awai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawaii is paradise and probably will always have a housing/homelessness problem. Many homeless gravitate to our islands without fear of dying from heated or freezing weather. But our homeless and economy issues are so high that many of our own Hawaiian population cannot find any homes even those with jobs. I stand in strong support of HB1841!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov